

Ode to My Parents © Xen.

At birth, I peered into the faces of a ‘god and goddess’ who created me in their likenesses and images to ask – *am I both of you?* Then I will become just like you.

At puberty and for many years beyond, I again looked at my parents and thought both were fooles and wondered how each managed to carry on in life.

At age 50, upon self-examination of a life lived thus far, my attitude towards them changed from misgiving to admiration of their wisdom.

At age 60 and afar, I honored and respected the ‘god and goddess’ who created me; to finally understand that each was only a human being who sacrificed his and her very best for my benefit. We all do that for our children, though they may never recognize it for many years or decades or ever. Neither parent was different; all transformation was self-realization only in me by recognizing that I became just as they – *I am both of you.*